STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

# STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 79 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Wednesday 13th May 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

# MCC collects tax through Property Index Number

- Tax-payers allotted unique Property Index Number on production of last year's tax receipts
- MCC Commissioner writes to State Government seeking extension of 5 percent rebate till July end

*MCC Zone 4 Assistant Commissioner Priyadarshini (standing extreme right) supervising tax collection process at the Zonal Office in Yadavagiri this morning.*

Mysuru, May 13 (MTY, RK & BCT)- As a first step towards online tax payment, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has begun the process of collecting taxes through Property Index Number since May 1, 2020 and the response from people is encouraging.

The new system has been devised to collect taxes, an annual process that has been hampered by COVID-19 this year. There are over 1.85 lakh tax-payers within the MCC limits and the civic body has set a target of collecting Rs. 176 crore in 2020-2021.

Tax collection process usually starts every April and this year too, it was to begin in the first week of April for the taxation year 2020-2021. Thanks to lockdown, the MCC has now launched the process of tax collection at all its 9 Zonal Offices through Property Index Number.

Usually, the MCC announces a rebate of 5 percent for those who pay their annual taxes in full in the month of April. This year, due to unprecedented scenario and unforeseen circumstances, the MCC has extended the rebate till the end of May, with an aim to encourage residents to pay their taxes in one go. If the tax collection is not up to the mark even by May end, the civic body is contemplating to extend the 5 percent rebate till June end and the issue is being discussed in the MCC.

Sources in the Mysuru City Corporation said that MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde has written to the State Government (Urban Development Department) seeking a nod to extend the 5 percent rebate till July end.

As the lockdown restrictions have been relaxed a bit now, all the nine Zonal Offices have kept their cash counters open in anticipation of citizens remitting their taxes. Officials said that the process to implement online payment of taxes has been set in motion and the software is being installed to make the process efficient and streamlined.

**Property Index Number**

Officials told *Star of Mysore* that in three months, the online system will be in place and to implement the system, all properties in Mysuru have been mapped, measured, classified and physically verified in the past. These include vacant sites, houses, commercial properties, parks and open spaces, apartment complexes and housing groups. As the first step towards the online system, the process to collect taxes through Property Index Number has begun and officials said that the system has a good response from the tax-payers.

**Unique identification number**

Property Index Number is a unique identification number that has been created by mapping all properties within MCC limits, detailing properties and their location including the road and ward. The number will have details including site, house, commercial buildings, location and extent of the property, floor area ratio, type of accommodation and the tax amount.

**(See MCC on page 6)**

# From Red, Mysuru all set to enter Orange Zone

Mysuru, May 13 (RK,MTY& DM)- Mysuru, which is currently in Red Zone after 90 COVID-19 cases (cumulative) were reported since the outbreak of the virus in the district one-and-a-half-months ago, is now all set to enter into Orange Zone as no new cases have been reported from anywhere in the district since the past 13 days till yesterday.

Of the 90 patients, 86 have been cured and currently only four of them continue to be treated in the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road where they are said to be recovering and are likely to be discharged in a couple of days.

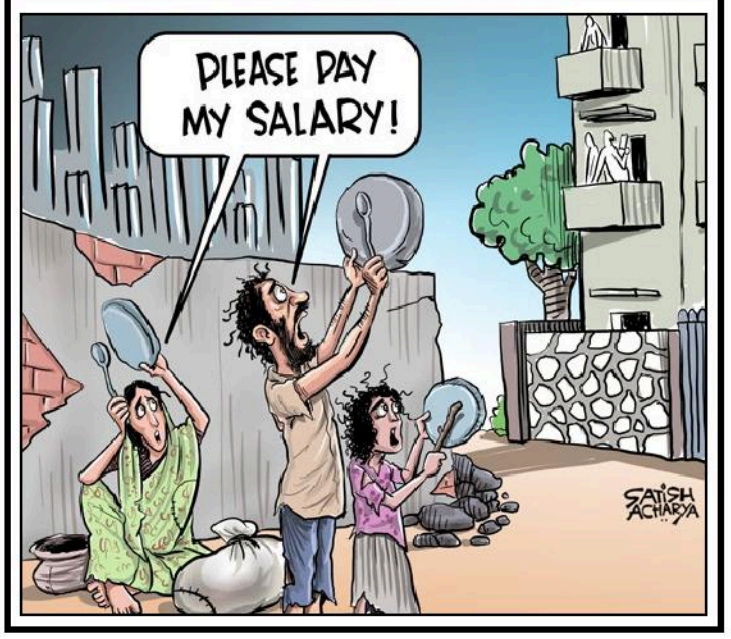
The criteria for identification of districts as Red, Orange and Green Zones have been spelt out in the letter dated Apr. 30 issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Green Zones will be districts with either zero confirmed cases till date or, no confirmed case in the last 21 days.

The classification of districts as Red Zones will take into account the total number of active cases, doubling rate of confirmed cases, extent of testing and surveillance feedback from the districts. Those districts, which are neither defined as Red nor Green, shall be classified as Orange Zones.

As per the protocol, any Red Zone district which does not report any fresh positive case in 14 days after the last COVID-19 positive case was reported, can move into Orange Zone, where there are more lockdown relaxations.

**(See ZONE on page 6)**

**STAR PUNCH** By Satish Acharya



# Seshadripuram PU College takes online lessons

Mysuru, May 13- The slogan "Stay home, stay safe" has engulfed everybody during this crucial Corona period. It has halted everything, including students acquiring knowledge through the traditional classroom learning, but 'Knowledge knows no bounds' and educational institutions are finding new ways of sharing it.

Seshadripuram Independent PU College, Mysuru, has stepped forward in taking knowledge to students while they are safe at home during COVID lockdown. The College is conducting online classes for the students through Onbimba app, where students can attend classes staying safe at home.

These classes, being streamed online, are also available for students in the app offline, where they can view the recorded video for repetition. The app, which is student-friendly, allows the registered students to login through a laptop or an android mobile phone, with minimum internet consumption.

In order to keep students engaged in scholastic activities, lecturers post assignments, PDF and images related to their respective subjects and also clarify students' doubts both online and offline.

*Teachers and students involved in one of the online sessions.*

**Parent-Teacher's Meeting**

For parents, their children become their prime concern. The quarantine period proves to be stressful to them, as they are worried about their wards' education and the chaotic academic year. To help parents' cast-off their stress about this prevailing doubts about the commencement of classes and examination, an online parent-teacher's meeting was held on May 1, to inform the parents about the lined-up events of the College during the lockdown.

The meeting was to ensure the parents that the Management, Principal and the Lecturers of the College stand with them in the scholastic improvement of the wards. Along with the regular online classes, online CET/ NEET coaching is also provided for the second PU students. Konar classes, handled by Ujwal Konar, Proprietor, Konar Classes, Bengaluru, is an interactive online CET/ NEET coaching class, where students learn, discuss and get their queries clarified online.

**Counselling Session**

The dreadful pandemic has also drained out people's motivation and enthusiasm. This quarantine has impacted student's regular chores and disciplined life. In order to get the students on track, an online counselling session was organised for both first PU and second PU students recently.

The resource person, Manju Goel, Founder-Director, Eduvangelist, Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru, addressed the students and their parents on 'Stay Motivated During COVID-19 Lockdown.' Manju Goel, speaking about the challenges faced by students like depression, tension, de-motivation, aggression, fear, a surge of anxiety and boredom during lockdown, motivated them by providing an insight into these hurdles. Providing a few tips to overcome their anxiety, keep themselves disciplined, manage time judiciously, she suggested means to overcome their mental stress.

# Minister warns Schools against unnecessary online classes

*Suresh Kumar*

Bengaluru, May 13- Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar has warned Primary and Higher Primary Schools against conducting unnecessary online classes for students.

He said that he has been receiving many complaints that even schools which are not required to conduct online classes have been unnecessarily conducting them, thus pushing the students to hardship.

Noting that it is wrong to conduct online classes without necessary technical support, he cautioned the schools against unscientific conduct of online classes, which may have an adverse impact on students.

Suresh Kumar directed the Department Commissioner to issue a circular to Schools asking them to immediately stop such unnecessary and unscientific online classes, which in some cases are found to be going on throughout the day.

# Week-long online workshop on Smart Teaching and Learning at St. Joseph's College of Education

Mysuru, May 13- Considering the ongoing pandemic, St. Joseph's College of Education, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru, has organised a one week online workshop on "Smart Teaching and Learning for Teachers" under the IQAC of the institution for the teachers working under Mysore Diocesan Educational Society (MDES).

The workshop being held from May 12 to 18 aims to equip the teachers to meet the challenges of present scenario.

While delivering the welcome address, Dr. Priya Mathew, Principal, St. Joseph's College of Education, and Convener of this programme, emphasised that it is a very special academic year for St. Joseph's College of Education as it marks the Golden Jubilee Year.

The Principal also mentioned that this workshop is just the beginning of varied activities envisaged to commemorate the Golden Jubilee.

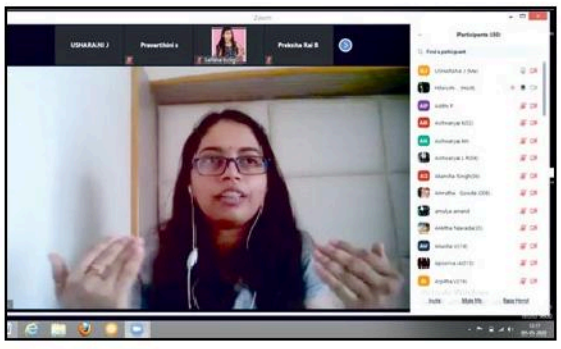
The sub-themes of the online workshop are as follows:

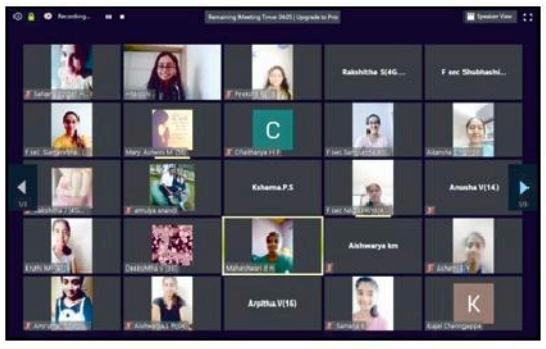
E-content development and editing; Learning Management System; Online Communication; Engaging Presentation; Enhancing Teamwork; Digital Assessment and Virtual Classroom.

Rev. Fr. Vijay Kumar, Secretary and Correspondent, MDES, in his inaugural address called upon the teachers to "Wage a war against COVID by learning all the technical and online skills."

Resource person M.K. Naseerali, Asst. Professor, author and trainer in Educational Technology, Aligarh Muslim University Centre, Malappuram, Kerala; Joyce Lobo, CEO of St. Joseph's and St. Matthias institutions and the Co-ordinator of the workshop; Asha P. Pathrose, IQAC Co-ordinator of the institution, took part in the online session.

# GSSSIETW Alumnae Association hosts Webinar





*Hitaisshi (2010 Alumnae Batch Computer Science and Engineering Department), Investor Relations & Strategic Planner, VIVRT Motors Pvt. Ltd., Mysuru, interacting with the first year students in Zoom Platform Interface. Picture right shows students attending the Webinar.*

Mysuru, May 13- The Alumnae Association of GSSS Institute of Engineering & Technology for Women (GSSSIETW), Metagalli, Mysuru, had organised a webinar on the topic 'Pandemic may open windows of opportunity for the long-awaited change' by the Alumnae for first year students recently.

Hitaisshi (2010 Alumnae Batch Computer Science and Engineering Department), Investor Relations & Strategic Planner, VIVRT Motors Pvt. Ltd. (Past District Rotaract Representative (PDRR) of RID 3181), Mysuru, interacted with the students in Zoom Platform Interface.

Hitaisshi started the session by discussing the Engineering aspects, attitude of professional engineer and professional challenges in current scenario and also the scope for preparation to upgrade oneself to the requirements as of now with respect to Confidence, Personality, Communication Skill, Body Language and Technical Skill.

She also discussed the most important code words to face the challenges in engineering life. She explained how engineering plays a major role in today's corporate world and discussed job opportunities for engineers. The session concluded with questionnaires, according to a press release from Principal Dr. M. Shivakumar.

# Mahajana PU College holds online coaching

Mysuru, May 13- SBRR Mahajana PU College, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru, is conducting online classes to students studying in second year Pre-University across all streams — Science, Commerce and Arts.

Educational institutions are under lockdown since March, 2020. Students of Mahajana have been given an opportunity during lockdown to enhance their skill sets and focus their time effectively on studies.

The Principal and staff of Mahajana PU College, under the guidance of Mahajana Education Society (MES) President Muralidhar Bhagavat and Hon. Secretary Vijayalakshmi Bhagavat, are encouraging students to utilise the lockdown period in view of preparation for CET and other entrance tests. Students are counselled and motivated through online classes, periodic assignments are given and frequent updates regarding classes are sent through SMS to both parents and students.

VOICE OF THE READER

# Street dog menace on the rise

Sir,

We are facing street dog menace in Vijayanagar 3rd Stage D-Block since a long time. Of late the number of dogs has risen and they are causing noise pollution even in the night by barking continuously.

As many toddlers and aged people reside in this lane, the nuisance the dogs create is unbearable.

Hence, I request the MCC Commissioner or any other officials concerned to take immediate action in this matter and shift all these stray dogs to the Dog Shelter Home at Pinjrapole Society in the city outskirts.

**— Vinay Suresh Panthayil**
Vijayanagar 3rd Stage
11.5.2020

# No Akrama Sakrama please !

Sir,

The Mysore City Cororation (MCC) at its recent meeting is said to be thinking of introducing Akrama Sakrama in Mysuru also. Please do not do this mistake. Does it mean MCC will be legalising all illegal buildings that have violated all the building rules and acquired more lands adjacent to their own sites.

Why should MCC resort to such illegal activity instead of collecting money in a legal manner?

It is nothing but ridiculous. Mr. Commissioner, please stop any such move.

**— Dr. M. Shanthakumar**
**on e-mail**
Mysuru
8.5.2020

# IT engineer cooks from his home kitchen and serves needy

Mysuru, May 13- This is the story of an IT engineer cooking from his home kitchen for 31 days straight and distributing 10,200 plates of vegetarian nutritious meals to the people of Mysuru.

Moved by the plight of the daily wagers, Radhakrishna Hurlihalli, a Senior Technical Architect at Infosys, Mysuru, took upon himself to do his bit to make a difference in these difficult times of COVID-19.

His day would start at 6 in the morning with the cleaning of the grocery — rice, pulses and vegetables. He would lead his team in meticulously cutting, sorting, cooking and packing the individual meals.

*Radhakrishna Hurlihalli*

And to break the monotony, Radhakrishna would cook a different dish every day — poori matar, vangibath, rice aloo sabji, kichdi, dalma, jira rice, baingan sambar, etc. and by noon, he would have the meals ready for distribution to about 500 people on average. There is no fund-raising or any other financial support; he is spending from his own pockets to serve the needy. In this endeavour, he was assisted by an equally enthusiastic team comprising his wife Deepa and a team of volunteers Biswajeet Patra, Manjunathan Seshadri, Somnath Reddy, Akash Dubey, Srinivas, Mayur and Sai Avinash.

**Free Gita classes**

Radhakrishna says that his mission is divinely inspired by the teachings of Bhagavad Gita. Though he has done his bit to serve the hungry, he feels that the present-day society is facing a hunger of a different kind, the hunger of the soul. According to him, since the soul is hungry, society today is gripped by a lack of purpose leading to depression and stress. To cater to this hunger of the soul, he conducts free classes on Gita every week followed by dinner prasadam.

Anyone willing to be part of this initiative may contact Radhakrishna on Mob: 78991-62520.

# Columbia Asia Hospital launches 'Guardians of Care' campaign

Mysuru, May 13- To express gratitude and lift up the spirits of nurses for their selfless service, Columbia Asia Hospital has launched a week-long campaign 'Guardians of Care' on their Facebook page. The Hospital has urged nurses to share their selfies in uniforms to let the world know and meet their 'Guardians of Care.'

Public can also participate by posting a message, thanking and sharing their experiences on how a nurse touched their life.

The hospital believes that 2020 is the year of nurses and midwives and that together should celebrate the undying spirit and effort put by the nurses especially during the extreme pandemic situation of COVID-19. Nurses are the health warriors who are standing at the forefront fighting against the situation and saving lives without the fear of catching the infection.

Dr. Upendra Shenoy, Chief of Medical Services, Columbia Asia Hospital, Mysuru said, "We want to pay tributes to the tireless work of nurses through this initiative. All the nurses are volunteering and are standing like a wall to fight the pandemic. Indeed, they are true warriors. All the heroes deserve recognition for putting themselves at risk. We thank all the forefront nurses and healthcare staff for their tremendous effort in trying to bring back normalcy in common people's lives. We want them to know that they are treasured and appreciated not just for one day but every day for their dedication and commitment."

# Health officials urge public to dispose of used face mask scientifically

Mysuru, May 13 (RK&KS)- Do not throw used face masks on roadsides, drains, garbage heaps etc. but dispose them of scientifically, appealed the officials of the Health Department to the public. The officials who appreciated the usage of face masks by the public to prevent the deadly virus from spreading have said that it is also important to dispose the used face masks scientifically.

Pointing out that public are seen throwing used masks in garbage heaps, road junctions, roadsides and drains, the Health officials said that this was resulting in cattle consuming them while dogs and pigs were scattering them along with other wastes on roads which could result in the spread of the virus.

The Health officials have suggested that the used masks be wrapped in a paper bag, put them in dry waste bag and hand over the same to the Pourakarmikas who come to collect the garbage daily.

Stating that used masks should be disposed in the same way as biomedical waste, the Health officials said as such facility is not in place, disposing used face masks by wrapping it in paper bag along with dry waste can be done.

The officials have warned that MCC officials could register a case and initiate legal action on those found disposing used face masks in public places as it could be dangerous.

# Mysuru COVID Care Team honours Cops

*Police personnel were felicitated by Mysuru COVID Care Team led by MLA S.A. Ramdas at KR Sub-Division ACP's office auditorium in Lakshmipuram.*

Mysuru, May 13 (PM&BNR)- Mysuru COVID Care Team led by MLA and Ex-Minister S.A. Ramdas felicitated Police personnel who are among the Corona Warriors in the battle against the deadly pandemic. The felicitation ceremony was held at the office of the KR Sub-Division ACP in Lakshmipuram recently.

KR ACP Poornachandra Tejaswi, Inspectors of Police Stations coming under KR Constituency limits Manjunath, Srinivas, Raju, Gangadhar, Jagadeesh, Shivakumar, Pooja, Gowrishankar and Traffic Division and Lakshmipuram Station staff were also feted.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramdas said that like soldiers fight out enemies in the border of the Nation, Police too have been working tirelessly in the fight against Coronavirus. Hence, they deserve the honour as Corona Warriors, he added.

B.S. Prashanth of Safe Wheels, leader Bhashyam, KR BJP President M. Vadivelu, Vice-President Balakrishna, Srinivas, Santhosh (Shambhu) and others were present.

# Obituary

**Ajjikuttira Kamala**

Mysuru, May 13- Ajjikuttira Kamala (Nellira), wife of late Annaiah, passed away this morning at her residence in Vijayanagar 3rd Stage. She was 71.

She leaves behind one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

Cremation was held at the foot of Chamundi Hill this noon.

**Lingaraju**

Lingaraju (56), a resident of Basaveshwara Road 2nd Cross near Agrahara, passed away in city yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram this morning, according to family sources.

**In this week's Pet Talk, Maneka explains why we don't get to see baby pigeons**

# Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

***Why is organic farming considered better than conventional farming?***

Farming with pesticides and chemical fertilisers destroys the soil so that more and more are needed every year. The chemicals kill all the beneficial insects and transfer their poisons into your food. The urea makes the ground thirsty so that more and more water is needed. Organic farming improves the soil quality and leads to the conservation of groundwater. It reduces pollution. The quality of food is also better for health than conventional farming. One of the leading examples of an organic State is Sikkim in our country.

***Which is the best source of protein in a vegan diet?***

Lentils, beans, soyabean are the best protein options in a vegan diet. The human body needs very little protein — about 8-10 gms a day. You can get that in any vegetarian food: even potatoes.

***Why is vegan diet considered healthy compared to non-vegetarian diet?***

Several studies have reported that the vegan diet contains more fibre, antioxidants, potassium, magnesium and vitamins A, C and E. Vegan diet is full of essential nutrients. Non-vegetarian diet has an excess of fats, cholesterol and is full of diseases because of the way the animals are reared and killed. It is very easy to be vegan in a country which has 500 species of vegetables.

***Why do pigeons bob their heads?***

Pigeons aren't actually bobbing their heads. Instead, they're pushing them forward.

When researchers in a study reviewed slow-motion footage, they found that there were actually two main parts to a pigeon's head movement, which the scientists called a "thrust" and a "hold" phase.

In the 'thrust' phase, the head is pushed forward, relative to the body by about 5 centimeters. This is followed by a 'hold' phase, during which the head is kept still in space, which means that it moves backwards relative to the forward-moving body. What we see as a "bob" is the head sliding smoothly forward and then waiting for the body to catch up. We perceive it as a bob because the motion unfolds so rapidly.

Head-thrusting helps pigeons to stabilise their view of the moving world around them. Keeping the head still in space during the 'hold' phases means that the image will not be blurred by motion.

In other words, a stationary head gives the bird a moment to visually process its surroundings while it waits for its moving body to catch up; it's like hitting pause on the motion for a fraction of a second. This tactic is useful because it enables them to see potential food — and possibly, enemies.

If pigeons' heads moved at the same pace as their bodies, they would have trouble keeping a stable image of the world on their retina.

***Why can't we see baby pigeons? Where do all the baby pigeons go?***

Most baby songbirds are in the nest until they are fully feathered and as big as the adults.

However, to be fair, there are a few reasons for such infrequent sightings of baby rock pigeons in particular: Their nests tend to be out of view, on rooftops and other skyscraping venues such as bridges and the sides of high-rises; pigeons spend a longer time as nestlings than other birds; and pigeon babies grow up, at least appearance-wise, faster than other birds.

Whereas most songbirds spend two to three weeks in the nest, pigeons hang out for at least three weeks and up to six weeks in the comfort of the nest. By that time, the juvenile pigeons look more like adults than other birds when they leave the nest.

If you keep an eye out though, you may be able to spot these young ones: Look for feathers that aren't completely molten, dark eyes (adults have red-orange eyes) and tapered primary feathers (the longest feathers on the bird's wing).

***Our Municipality head says that pigeons are responsible for spreading diseases like tuberculosis and cancer. Is this true?***

It is complete nonsense. There have been thousands of studies done on this because, for some unknown reason, when Municipalities don't want to solve real issues, they invent issues to frighten people. The sight of people feeding pigeons irritates bureaucrats and they are always making false and illiterate accusations. In no study anywhere in the world have pigeons been found to spread any disease at all. I have taken plastic hanging flowerpots which nurseries sell and hung them from my verandah ceilings. They are lined with newspaper. The pigeons have made homes in them and I love the sound of their cooing which is so relaxing.

***How can illegal breeding of animals be put to a halt?***

Refuse to entertain breeders who breed animals unethically. Report them on any social media site that you come across and let any animal welfare NGO know immediately about their activities.

Click pictures for evidence and call the Police, file a case against the perpetrator; You can also approach the Court to file a case, if nothing else works out; The first step, however, is to be aware about illegal breeding and legal breeding.

***What are some pet shop/ breeder laws that the common public must know?***

It is be mandatory for all pet shop owners to register themselves with the State Animal Welfare Board of the respective State Governments/ Union Territories.

Such shops are registered only after inspection by the representatives of State Board, a veterinary practitioner and a representative of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The rules define space requirements for birds, cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats and mice in the pet shops. It defines the basic amenities, power back-up, general care, veterinary care and other operational requirement for animals kept in pet shops.

The rules make it mandatory to maintain proper records of sale, purchase, death of animals in pet shops.

Every pet shop owner is required to submit a yearly report to the State Board regarding animals, sold, traded, bartered, brokered, given away, boarded or exhibited during previous year, or any other information asked for by the State Board.

**To join the animal welfare movement contact**
**gandhim@*nic.in***
***www.peopleforanimalsindia.org***

**PFA HELPLINE**

Savitha Nagabhushan - 9845654429
DOGS, PUPPIES, CATS, KITTENS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION [Contact: Ph: 0821-2598213]
Timings: 8 am to 8 pm

**SEND YOUR QUESTIONS**

Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM* : *voice@starofmysore.com*

# Balaga pays power bills of more than 25 families

Mysuru, May 13- The members of B.Y. Vijayendra Abhimani Balaga, who are providing food packets, grocery kits and medicines to the needy to tide over the financial crisis due to COVID-19 lockdown, paid the electricity bills of more than 25 poor families and handed over the receipts to them on the occasion of Buddha Poornima recently. The Balaga paid the bills ranging from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 of 25 poor families in the presence of CESC Bill Reader at Agrahara Circle here.

Speaking on the occasion, Balaga leader and former Taluk Panchayat President L.R. Mahadevaswamy said that the Balaga was providing lunch to the needy since over a month and has distributed grocery kits to thousands of families at Srirampura, Mahadevapura, Ramabai Nagar, Alanahalli, Chikkahalli, Nachanahallipalya and more than 25 villages and added that the Balaga will be serving the needy in future also. He also said that families of labourers who had taken ill were provided with free medicines after collecting the doctor's prescriptions. Nearly 2,500 persons were provided with the service and added that any member of poor families can call them over the phone and medicines would be provided to them free of cost.

***B.Y. Vijayendra Abhimani Balaga leader L.R. Mahadevaswamy along with Balaga members seen handing over the receipts of electricity bills to those beneficiaries whose bills were paid recently.***

Leaders Lakshmidevi, Anand, Shyamala, Nikhil, Mellahalli Mahesh, Jaswanth, Anil, Ashok, Vikram Iyengar, Arasikere Umesh, Harish and others were present.

# 'Shramik Special' chugs from Dakshina Kannada to transport migrant labourers to Bihar

## Social distancing maintained during boarding with all passengers wearing face masks

Mysuru, May 13- The first 'Shramik Special' train from South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru Division, with 1,428 migrant labourers belonging to Bihar onboard, started at 14:30 hrs yesterday from Kabakaputtur Railway Station in Dakshina Kannada. This train has been scheduled as per the request of Government of Karnataka.

The train with a composition of 24 coaches, including 18 Sleeper, 4 General and 2 Ladies-Cum-Luggage Van with a capacity total of 1,464 passengers to Bapudham Motihari in Bihar via Arsikere, Ballari, Guntakal, Vijayawada and Gaya Junctions, is scheduled to reach the destination at 07:00 hrs on May 14. Consistent with the comprehensive guidelines issued by the Ministry of Railways, social distancing was observed during boarding with all passengers wearing face masks. Adequate quantity of soaps and sanitisers have been provided in each compartment for maintaining personal hygiene and the passengers were sensitised about the contagious nature of COVID infection and the need to observe all precautions.

The empty rake before starting from Mysuru was fully sanitised as per the standard protocol communicated by the Railway Board. A total of 6 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel will be escorting the train end-to-end who are under instructions to coordinate with Government Railway Police of the respective State Governments in the path of the train to deal with any emergency effectively.

The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has made arrangements for supplying food and water to passengers onboard at Arsikere. IRCTC in coordination with the other Railway Divisions enroute will be taking care of catering services, as required.

Mysuru Divisional Railway authority oversaw the arrangements at Kabakaputtur Railway Station and stated that proper communication was vital in safe transportation of migrant labourers and instructed all concerned that protocols issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for prevention of the infection must be followed in letter and spirit, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager & PRO, SWR Mysuru Division.

# 'Seva Sindhu', 'Aarogya Setu' Apps download drive from tomorrow

*Ramdas*

Mysuru, May 13 (PM&BNR)- Karnataka State Government's 'Seva Sindhu' and Central Government's 'Aarogya Setu' apps download drive will be launched at all the 19 Wards coming under KR Constituency led by its MLA S.A. Ramdas tomorrow.

The drive will be held from 7 am to 6 pm at Ward 43 - Sharadadevinagar Circle, 47 - Akshaya Bhandar, 48 - Jayanagar Sri Rama Mandira, 49 - Nanjumalige Circle, 50 - Siddappa Square, 51 - Agrahara Cirlce, 52 - M.G. Road Market, 53 - Siddarthanagar's Ganapathy Temple, 54 - Hunsemara Circle, 55 - Chamundipuram Circle, 56 - Ballal Circle, 57 - Shanti Sagar Complex, 59 - Vivekanandanagar Circle, 60 - Silk Factory Circle, 61 - Chamundi Vana, 62 - J.P. Nagar Gobbalimara Circle, 63 - J.P. Nagar Last Stop, 64 - KSRTC Depot Circle and 65 - Bhramarambha Kalyana Mantapa.

Also, on the occasion, donations will be collected from citizens towards PM CARES and CM Relief Funds.

"The Chief Minister has announced Rs.1,810 crore special package to unorganised labourers which is a welcome move. This includes auto drivers, cab drivers, construction workers, Savitha Samaja members, cobblers and Madiwala Samaja workers. The financial assistance can be obtained by submitting necessary documents through 'Seva Sindhu' app. It has been requested to provide similar financial assistance to newspaper distributors, Vishwakarma community members, mechanics of two, three and four-wheelers, tailors, cooks, Purohits and others in coming days," said Ramdas in a press release.

## MLA Ramdas to collect donations for CM and PM CARES Funds

# Jubilant Life Sciences to produce COVID-19 drug; Nanjangud plant still closed

Mysuru, May 13 (OSR)- Jubilant Life Sciences Limited, an India-based Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Company, yesterday announced that its subsidiary, Jubilant Generics Limited, has entered into a non-exclusive licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences that will grant Jubilant the right to register, manufacture and sell Gilead's investigational drug 'Remdesivir', a potential therapy for COVID-19 in 127 countries including India.

"Under the licensing agreement, Jubilant will have the right to receive a technology transfer of the Gilead manufacturing process to scale up production to enable expedited access of the medicine to COVID-19 patients upon approvals by regulatory authorities in respective countries," a press statement on the Jubilant Company website said.

**Nanjangud connection**

Jubilant Generics Limited has a plant in Nanjangud, Mysuru District. It may be recalled that the plant hit headlines recently after one of its employees (now identified as P52) contracted the Coronavirus.

Though the Karnataka Department of Health and Family Welfare has identified the first patient from Jubilant Generics as a 'super spreader' of COVID-19 in the State, it still remains a mystery as to how P52, an employee of the Quality Assurance Department, contracted the disease. Later, the disease spread to 73 persons, forcing the Mysuru District Administration to declare Nanjangud as a cluster case.

Senior IAS Officer Harsha Gupta, who was appointed by the State Government to investigate the actual source of the virus, submitted an incomplete report. "When we do not exactly know how the disease came to India, what is the point in spending hours on the Nanjangud cluster? The aim should be on how to control the spread of disease and not conduct a probe on the actual source," he had said.

**Production shut**

Production at the Jubilant Generics was shut due to Coronavirus positive cases and the Mysuru District Administration quarantined the entire staff of around 950 persons in the plant and adjoining areas. The Nanjangud Plant manufactures Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) which in simple terms mean raw material to manufacture drugs.

It is not, however, clear if the production of APIs will start at the Nanjangud Plant as at present, the manufacturing unit is shut. Company officials at Noida were not available for comments and there were only security personnel at the Nanjangud Plant who had no information about production.

# Mysuru's Shruthi Ranjani features in First Online Intl. Music Premier League

*Shruthi Ranjani*

Mysuru, May 13- Shruthi Ranjani, a resident of Vidyaranyapuram in Mysuru, has featured in the First Online International Music Premier League (IMPL) 2020 Music Festival, organised by violinist of international repute Dr. Jyotsna Srikant through her organisation Dhruv Arts and London International Arts Festival (LIFA) in partnership with Carnatica, Chennai, with a tagline 'COVID-19 - Heal Through Music.'

A Gold Medallist in M. Music from University of Mysore, Shruthi Ranjani is presently pursuing Ph.D under the guidance of Prof. Ramakrishnaiah from Bangalore University and is working as a guest faculty in the Department of Karnatak Music Vocal at Karnataka State Dr.Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Mysuru.

Given the current global pandemic, the online event (IMPL-2020) features numerous young masters, upcoming and budding musicians from across the world doing a short performance — from their homes — as a prayer for the collective health and well-being of humanity.

The organisers had called for entries from across the world through various online platforms requesting for a 4 to 5 minutes of video performances. Under the guidance of her Guru Prof. S.N. Susheela, Shruthi Ranjani had also sent a video (https://youtu.be/BTmoYOVkTbo) of her performance in which she sings the song 'Yashode Amma' composed by Sri Purandaradasa (Music: Dr. Nagamani Srinath) in 'Sindhubhairavi' raga and 'Adi' tala. And now, the video has got a place in the IMPL 2020 YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/BTmoYOVkTbo) which features selected videos amongst the entries received from across the globe.

The 16-day Online Music event includes over 500 videos/performances posts, 200-plus senior artistes including stars and eminent artistes, 300-plus young/junior artistes and three panel discussions and additional 10 thematic live events.

Daughter of Violinist Sangeetha Nidhi H.S. Thandava Murthy and late S.R. Sujatha, Shruthi Ranjani is married to Sundaresh Devapriyam, Principal of Hardwicke PU College, who is also known among the music circle as Munna of 'Naavu,' a city-based music band.

# 'Defamation suits can't be used to threaten media'

## Senior City Advocate Venugopal cites Madras High Court judgement on Freedom of Press

Mysuru, May 13 (RKB&DM)- The recent Madras High Court judgement on Freedom of Press has brought more strength to print media, said Senior City Advocate Venugopal.

"Individuals and companies cannot file defamation suits against press reporters merely on the basis of minor or insignificant mistakes that may have crept in unintentionally while reporting," he said.

Venugopal was speaking at the Facebook live media interaction meet organised by Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) on May 11.

The Madras High Court recently quashed a criminal defamation case filed against Chennai-based investigative journalist Sandhya Ravishankar and her husband Prem Shankar by VV Minerals, a beach sand mining firm. The case was filed against Sandhya Ravishankar for an article published by a national daily on illegal beach sand mining of atomic minerals in Tamil Nadu in 2015.

**Criminal defamation case**

Sandhya had published a report in the daily accusing the TN Govt. of allowing a company engaged in sand mining along the seashores in Chennai, for looting public wealth by violation of mining norms. Following the publication of the report, the sand company filed a defamation suit against the lady journalist, her husband, the newspaper editor and other staff. Later, journalist Sandhya Ravishankar moved the Madras HC seeking dismissal of the case.

**Report based on facts**

During the course of the hearing, Sandhya strongly defended herself saying that she had written the report based on the facts highlighted in a writ petition filed by an individual in the Madras High Court alleging involvement of a mafia in sand mining along the Arabian Sea shores near Chennai and based her report on Court's observations. She said that she had also carried the response of the sand company in question and there was nothing wrong in her report.

The sand company, on the other hand, maintained that the report was written with a malafide intention just because the husband of the lady reporter was not given a job in the TV channel run by it and the company had not done anything illegal in sand mining operations.

**Court's observations**

The Court, while hearing the case, made pertinent observations about the role of the judiciary in safeguarding the Freedom of Press. "I am clearly of the view that there is no point in merely singing paeans to Freedom of Press, if one cannot go to its rescue when the said right is faced with a serious threat," Justice G.R. Swaminathan observed. "When Freedom of Press is at stake, higher judiciary is obliged to exercise not only its inherent power but also exert itself a bit. An unused power is a useless tinsel. There is no point in merely saying that a Free Press is the foundation of democracy."

The Judge said the Court must necessarily examine materials and quash a frivolous case without forcing the accused to undergo the ordeal of trial. "It is a matter of record that criminal defamation proceedings have become a tool of intimidation for corporate bodies and powerful politicians whose pockets are tunnel deep and whose hands are long enough that even media houses with good resources have capitulated," Justice Swaminathan added and dismissed the defamation case.

**Weapon to threaten media**

Pointing out that the Madras High Court has clearly said that defamation suit cannot be used as a weapon to threaten media, Venugopal said that journalist associations, based on this order, can exert pressure on the Government to frame laws regarding protection to scribes against such defamation suits.

"Some wrongful individuals and vested interests are filing defamation suits in order to threaten or tame journalists who are made to unnecessarily run to courts and the time has come to put an end to such actions of stifling or threatening journalists," Venugopal opined.

# Enter Orange Zone

(Continued from page 1)

With the possibility of Mysuru entering the Orange Zone becoming a reality, thanks to the untiring efforts of the District Administration, the city can expect more lockdown relaxations in a couple of days.

At present, the business and commercial activities on 91 streets have been banned. In the Orange Zone classification, business activities can resume in these streets. Mysuru can move further to Green Zone if no new cases are reported in 14 days of moving into Orange Zone.

Meanwhile, following some relaxation in travel announced last week, 433 persons from outside the State have returned to the city. They have been sent to facility quarantine. A medical test will be conducted on all of them after 10 days during which their throat swab and blood samples will be sent for laboratory test and anyone who tests positive will be shifted to COVID Hospital.

The District Administration, leaving no chances, has sent throat swab and blood samples of over 1,000 patients being treated at various hospitals, who have shown even mild SARI symptoms. With no new cases being reported in the last 13 days, the city will be free of all Containment Zones by tomorrow. The authorities had marked 12 areas in city as Containment Zones over a month ago and had sealed off the areas.

Now after 28 days, with no fresh cases reported from these areas, the authorities had revoked 10 Containment Zones on different days including two (Janatanagar and Anikethana road in Kuvempunagar) today (May 13), as per COVID-19 protocol.

Now the city has only two Containment Zones — Nazarbad and J.P. Nagar 20th Cross — and it is most likely that the authorities will lift the Containment Zone tag of these areas too tomorrow, according to MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraju.

## COVID - 19 UPDATE

### MYSURU

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Persons observed till date | : | 5,197 |
| Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation | : | 4,760 |
| Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers) | : | 433 |
| Persons isolated in hospital for active cases | : | 4 |
| Total samples tested | : | 5,484 |
| Samples found negative | : | 5,394 |
| Samples found positive (cumulative) | : | 90 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 86 |
| Death toll so far in Mysuru | : | 0 |

### MANDYA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Mandya | : | 31 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 14 |
| Death toll so far in Mandya | : | 0 |

### KARNATAKA & INDIA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total positive cases in Karnataka | : | 959 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 451 |
| Death toll so far in Karnataka | : | 33 |
| Total active cases in India | : | 47,480 |
| Persons cured / discharged | : | 24,385 |
| Death toll so far in India | : | 2,415 |

(Note: Some of the figures of Mysuru are as on May 12. Media bulletin for May 13 not available)

# MCC collects tax

(Continued from page 1)

Once the number is entered into a system, it will provide details like history of tax payments, area of site, built-up area and number of floors, among other things. The number will be permanent, regardless of change of property size, change in owner, ward boundary or any other numbering changes.

Officials said the new system will ensure the navigation details and address location services for dwellings or properties within the jurisdiction of MCC and also help see the spatial depiction of information related to land dimensions, property tax and fee collection management.

**Will help track tax payment**

Property Index Number will ensure that every property has a unique number associated with it and it will help track tax payment and thereby help MCC get the revenue due to it. The civic body has been grappling with revenue shortfall and this should give it a big boost, said officials.

*MCC Zone 6 Asst. Commissioner H. Nagaraju (sitting extreme right) checking the documents of a property owner at the Zonal Office on Seshadri Iyer Road on Monday.*

"Each property owner or the property per se will have a Property Index Number. Tax-payers can produce the receipt of previous tax payments and an already-allotted Property Index Number will be given to them. When the number is entered in the system, all the property details including the tax due displays on the screen. It will be verified first at the cash counters and a print out will be given to the tax-payer and the tax due can be paid accordingly after checking the print out. This system has been implemented this year as a prelude to online tax payment. From next year, the system will go completely online where tax-payers can remit tax dues from the comfort of their homes," officials said.

In MCC Zone 6, there are 16,000 commercial properties and a tax collection target of Rs. 39 crore has been set. "Within the 5 percent rebate period, we are expecting to collect Rs. 18 crore to Rs. 20 crore. For the first time, taxes are being collected through Property Index Number and from next year, it will be fully online," said H. Nagaraju, Assistant Commissioner, MCC Zone 6.

*Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.*